



# California Department of Veterans Affairs

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## NEWS FOR VETERANS

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### SENATE CONFIRMS TOM JOHNSON AS SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Yesterday, the California Senate confirmed Tom Johnson as Secretary of Veterans Affairs by a vote of 38 to 0. This is excellent news for veterans since it helps guarantee continuity in the leadership of the California Department of Veterans Affairs. Governor Schwarzenegger appointed Johnson, a Vietnam Era veteran with more than 34 years in healthcare management experience, as Secretary of Veterans Affairs earlier this year.

"This is not as much an affirmation of me as it is a vote of confidence in this department," said Johnson. "There are many good people here at CDVA, at headquarters, in the Veterans Homes, at our Cal Vet offices and at our Veteran Services offices and I am proud to serve with you."

Johnson oversees an annual department operating budget of approximately \$300 million, a Farm and Home Loan program with assets of about \$2.4 billion, and roughly 1,600 employees statewide.

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### AB 1077 ON ITS WAY TO SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Today the California Senate Veterans Affairs Committee voted 5 to 0 in favor of AB 1077 (Wesson). This bill would provide an additional \$100 million in lease revenue bonds to fully finance the design and construction of California's five new veterans homes in Lancaster, Ventura, West Los Angeles, Fresno, and Redding.

California Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Tom Johnson and Assembly Speaker Emeritus Herb Wesson both testified on behalf of the bill. The next critical step for AB 1077, which is supported by Governor Schwarzenegger, is a hearing on Thursday, August 26, in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Veterans and Veteran Service Organizations wanting to register their support of AB 1077 and the Veterans Homes should immediately contact their legislators.

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